

Winnisquam Echo

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026

FREE

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Tractor-trailer driver injured in crash on I-93

Ladies Twilite Golf League at Den Brae now accepting registrations for 2026 season



COURTESY — SANBORNTON FIRE & RESCUE

SANBORNTON — One person was taken to the hospital after a tractor-trailer crashed along Interstate 93 in Sanbornton.

On Thursday, March 12, just before 6 a.m.,

State Troopers assigned to the Troop D barracks responded to reports of a crash involving a tractor-trailer on I-93 North near mile marker 59. 911 callers reported a tractor-trailer had gone off

the road into the median, and ultimately stopped in the woods nearby. When Troopers arrived, they found a red 2025 Mack Anthem with extensive damage.

Sanbornton Fire &

Rescue also responded to the scene and treated the driver of the Mack, identified as Thomas Martell, 65, of Allenstown. Martell was transported to an area hospital with minor

injuries.

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation is also assisting Troop D.

The crash remains under investigation.

SANBORNTON — The Ladies Twilite Golf League at Den Brae Golf Course is now accepting registrations for Tuesday night league play beginning in May.

Ladies Twilite is a fun, social, and somewhat competitive golf league designed for women of all skill levels. Whether you are new to the game or a seasoned player, the league provides a welcoming environment where camaraderie and friendly competition go hand in hand. Many participants come for the golf and stay to enjoy drinks, dinner, and socializing following their round.

League play runs from May 19 through Aug. 25, with tee times available Tuesday evenings from 3:30 to 6 p.m. The league format is structured to ensure fair and enjoyable competition, with players matched against others of similar skill levels. Teams are formed based on each player's combined average score from two rounds played at Den Brae, creating balanced and competitive matchups throughout the season.

Women interested in joining are encouraged to register soon, as space may be limited.

For more information or to register, please email ladiestwilight@gmail.com.

Come for the golf—stay for the fun!

Trio of Raider boys earn All-State honors

Winnisquam's Richie Perez named Division III Sub Varsity Coach of the Year

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

REGION — The New

Hampshire Basketball Coaches Organization has announced the All-State recipients for the recently concluded high school basketball season and local

boys were included on the lists.

In Division III, Evan Martinez of Belmont and Mark Uicker of Gilford earned First Team honors, Brody Ennis of Belmont, Kasen Smith of White Mountains and Owen Hawkins of Gilford earned Second Team honors and Honorable Mention went to Colby Whitehouse of Prospect Mountain, Jayden Belyea of Newfound, Henry Sleeper of Gilford, Wyatt Carroll of Belmont and Jackson Downs of In-

ter-Lakes.

Also earning First Team honors were Player of the Year Bryce Ballou of Mascoma, Eli Whipple of Kearsarge, Owen Wilkerson of Stevens and Ben Normand of Hopkinton.

Also named to Second Team were Grant Baker of St. Thomas, Jackson Westover of Hopkinton and Brayden Pierce of Mascoma.

Honorable Mention was also presented to Fall Mountain's Zach Hearne, Derryfield's Nate Bou-

dreau and Sammy Fazelot, Campbell's Jayden Medina, Monadnock's Sumner Hill-Goodell, Stevens' Tyson DiPaola, Hopkinton's Kristof Cauley, Raymond's Jacobi Cumberbatch, Kearsarge's Bragen Kinzer and Ryan Allard of St. Thomas.

Ennis was named All-Defensive team along with Baker, Hopkinton's Kyle Buelte, Mascoma's Colin Myers and Oliver Stone of St. Thomas.

SEE ALL-STATE, PAGE A8

Belmont High School Drama Club presents "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee!"



COURTESY

Back row, left to right: Bug Dutton, Elisia Perillo, Ari Suitter (back), Lexi Coveney, Karleigh Tilton, Tabitha Sheedy, Wednesday McCant, Neala Murphy. Front Row: Cora Takantjas, and Lyllah Anstey.

BELMONT — Musicals are back at Belmont High School!

The cast and crew of "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" have been working hard on their first musical production in many years.

Everyone is very excited to present this show in the BHS Cafeteria on Friday, March 20 at 7 p.m. and Sat-

urday, March 21 at 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students/seniors, cash or check only.

"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" is a Tony Award-winning musical with a book by Rachel Sheinkin, music and lyrics by William Finn, and concept by Rebecca Feldman. It follows a group of quirky middle schoolers

competing in a spelling bee, blending humor, heart, and audience participation as they share their personal stories and deal with adolescent issues. The show is known for its witty dialogue, memorable songs, and its unique format that often includes real audience members as spellers.

Hope to see you there to support student theater!



Belmont's Evan Martinez capped off his freshman campaign being named Division III First Team All-State.



Brody Ennis of Belmont was named Division III Second Team All-State and All-Defensive Team.



Belmont's Wyatt Carroll was named Division III All-State Honorable Mention.

Canterbury Shaker Village receives grant supporting preservation of 1811 Church Family Infirmary

CANTERBURY — Canterbury Shaker Village is pleased to announce receipt of a \$410,000 Save America's Treasures grant to preserve the 1811 Church Family Infirmary.

The Infirmary is one of the oldest and most intact historical medical facilities in New Hampshire and is essential for understanding Shaker society in the broader history of American healthcare. The project will address the immediate preservation needs of the building, including roof and foundation repairs, restoration of windows, doors, and trim, and improvements to meet ADA standards. Current project activity will extend from 2026 to 2028.

The Infirmary preservation project is being supported in part by a Save America's Treasures grant from the Historic Preservation Fund administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. Since 1999, the grant program has awarded more than \$300 million to 1,300+ nationally significant historic preservation projects. The source of the funding is Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas lease revenue, not tax dollars.

Canterbury Shaker Village, Inc preserves and interprets the legacy of the Canterbury Shakers, providing a place for learning, reflection, and renewal of the human spirit. It is an internationally-known non-profit museum founded in 1969 to preserve the heritage of the Canterbury Shakers. Designated as a National Historic Landmark for its architectural integrity and significance, the Village has 25 restored original Shaker buildings, four reconstructed Shaker buildings, and 694 acres of forests, fields, gardens, nature trails, and mill ponds under permanent conservation easement. Tours, programs, exhibits, and events help visitors chart their own journey of simplicity, caring, and community.

Sanbornton Town Clerk raffling off dog gift basket

SANBORNTON — The Sanbornton Town Clerk's office is encouraging residents to register their four-legged friends by once again raffling off a dog gift basket.

Register your dog by April 30 at the town clerk's office, 17 Meetinghouse Hill Rd., during normal business hours to be entered for a chance to win! Your dog must be up to date on their rabies vaccination, and dogs already registered have been entered automatically. The winner will also get one free dog registration for next year, and will get to pick the number tag they would like.

For more information, contact the town clerk's office at (603) 286-4034 or tctc@sanborntonnh.org.



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Mountain Madness comes to Gunstock April 11-12

GILFORD — The sights and sounds of snowmobile racing will soon return to the Granite State, as officials at X Racing announce their inaugural Mountain Madness event, set for Saturday and Sunday, April 11-12, at the historic Gunstock Mountain Resort.

Four separate tracks will be laid out at Gunstock; one for high-flying Snowcross competition, one with fewer jumps and features for Sunday Funday action; a third for Hillcross, and fourth for Vintage Snow Ovals. It's a weekend full of racing for all ages and ability levels; with a class for every sled.

"We're still working hard to rebuild sanctioned snowmobile racing here in New England," X Racing's Joe Duncan said. "After warm temps forced the postponement of our event at Wheeler Spring MX in Maine, we still wanted to give Eastern riders a chance to race before the sleds get put away for good."

"Back when the old RMR and ECS circuits were still around, they raced in New Hampshire with good results, as well. We feel like Gunstock Mountain can be an ideal home for us in N.H., and we're looking at having a long-term plan there. New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont are full of snowmobile riders."

The upcoming Mountain Madness event is unique in that offers numerous chances to race for all who attend. With multiple disciplines of racing, on-track time will increase. This gives racers way more "bang for their buck," with more opportunities to race each day. Less cost, more fun, and big smiles.

"We're excited to offer Vintage Snow Ovals to this program," Duncan added. "We'll have Oval classes for modern and Ditch-

bangers sleds; Snowcross for modern sleds, along with classes for Vintage and Youth in our Sunday Funday races. There will be multiple chances to race for everybody who comes."

X Racing has been working to grow the sport of snowmobile racing through a philosophy of keeping costs down for racers. A Sunday Funday weekend program is not centered around limited production race sleds; but rather is filled with classes based on regular, everyday sleds. Everybody can compete.

"We've just wrapped up our fourth season of Sunday Funday racing out in Minnesota," Duncan added. "It continues to grow out there with families who own sleds and just want to get out and play. We brought three new venues into the fold this winter. All three drew tons of entries and saw great racing."

Gunstock is a four-seasons mountain resort that offers year-round fun and adventure with skiing and snowboarding on 227 skiable acres and 49 trails. The Gunstock initiative started in 1935 when members of the Winnepesaukee Ski Club cut some cross-country trails through the Belknap Mountains.

The Belknap Mountains Recreation Area was officially opened on Feb. 28, 1937, when it hosted the United States Eastern Amateur Ski Association ski jumping event. Growth continued through the next few decades, while 1962 brought significant expansion and a name change to "Gunstock Mountain."

For more information about historic Gunstock Mountain Resort, go to www.gunstock.com. To learn more about X Racing, please go to www.SundayFundayX.com.

Bank of New Hampshire promotes Melissa Skeats and Morgan Herring



Melissa Skeats



Morgan Herring

LACONIA — Bank of New Hampshire is proud to announce the promotions of Melissa Skeats, VP - Director of Loan Administration & Operations, and Morgan Herring, Retail Operations Officer.

Melissa Skeats joined Bank of New Hampshire in 2011 as a Lending Assistant and was promoted to AVP - Commercial Banking Administration Manager in 2015, followed by VP - Commercial Banking Administration Manager in 2018. In her expanded role, she will assume oversight of loan operations, which recently became part of the Bank's Commercial Banking Division.

"This well-deserved promotion for Melissa is a testament to her dedication, expertise and leadership throughout her tenure with the bank," said Ross Bartlett, EVP - Chief Operating Officer. "Her continued growth has earned Melissa increased responsibility through her performance and commitment to operational excellence. I

am excited to see her take on this expanded role and continue driving success within loan operations."

Morgan Herring began her career at Bank of New Hampshire in 2018 as a Bank Services Representative in the Rochester office. She was promoted to Retail Banking Operations Associate in 2022 and advanced to Retail Banking Operations Officer in 2025. In her expanded role, she will lead the Bank's Retail Operations division.

"Morgan's continued advancement within the Bank reflects her outstanding performance, dedication and leadership," said Alexandra Pelletier, SVP - Retail Banking Administration Officer. "Her extensive knowledge of retail banking operations, combined with her collaborative approach, positions her well to lead our Retail Operations division forward."

Founded in 1831, Bank of New Hampshire is the oldest and one of the largest independent banks head-

quartered in the state. With assets exceeding \$2.7 billion and 21 banking offices across New Hampshire and southern Maine, the bank provides comprehensive deposit, lending and wealth management solutions for families and businesses. As a mutual organization, Bank of New Hampshire is focused on the success of

its customers, communities and employees—rather than stockholders. With a legacy of strength and stability, the bank combines local decision-making and trusted guidance with modern technology to deliver a seamless banking experience. For more information, call 1-800-832-0912 or visit BNH.Bank.

Community survey launched to address gaps in women's health access across NH

REGION — Women of the Mountains Birth Initiative (WOMB) is calling on women across New Hampshire to participate in a brief, anonymous survey aimed at improving access to comprehensive women's health care statewide.

The survey is part of a federally funded initiative led by the New Hampshire Insurance Department (NHID) to better understand where women face barriers to care—including insurance coverage gaps, limited provider access, and unmet health needs across the lifespan. Findings will directly inform state-level recommendations, payer strategies, and future outreach and education efforts.

WOMB recently partnered with NHID to host a regional focus group in late 2025. This follow-up survey expands that effort, offering a broader opportunity for voices—especially those in rural and under-

served communities—to be heard.

"Too often, decisions about women's health care are made without hearing directly from the people most affected,"

said a representative from WOMB. "This survey is a chance for lived experiences to shape real policy conversations."

The survey is voluntary, anonymous, and takes approximately 5-10 minutes to complete. No personally identifiable information is collected. NHID has contracted with Health Management Associates to analyze results and prepare a report with recommendations to the state.

Community members are encouraged to participate and share the survey widely.

Take the survey at https://healthmanagement.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d4h9ebw3BlTtOvM.



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Greater Lakes Region Children's Fund awards \$765,035 to 76 area nonprofits at annual Distribution Event

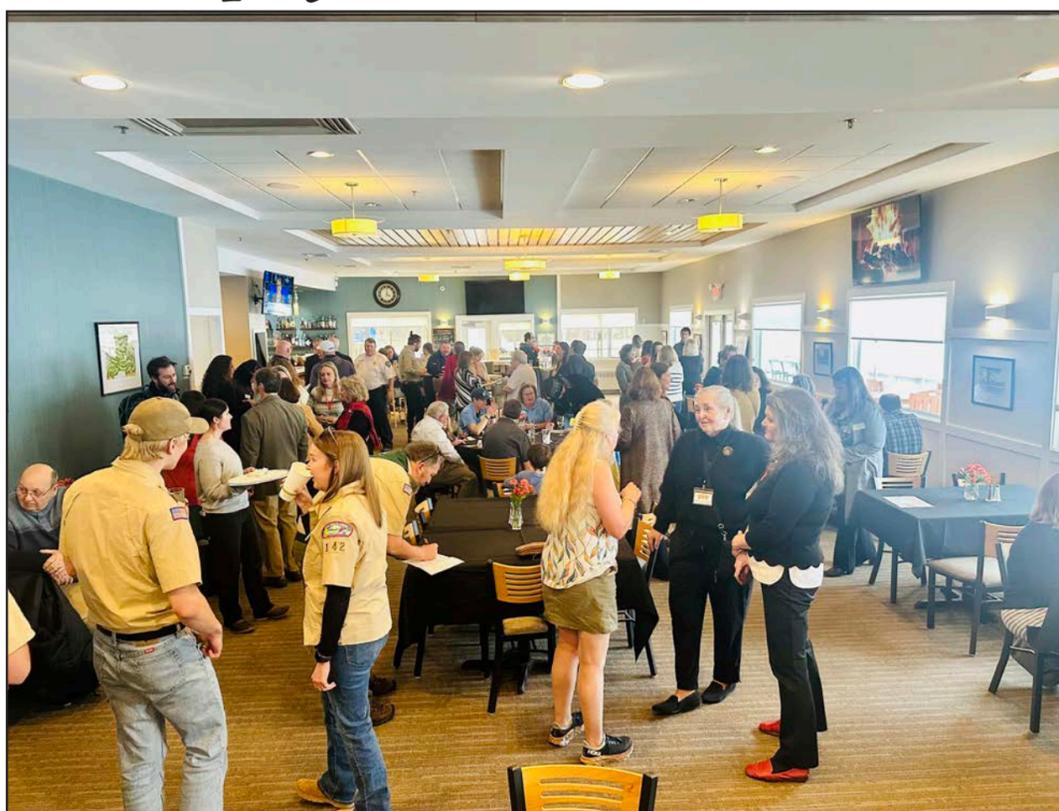
LACONIA — The Greater Lakes Region Children's Fund recently distributed \$765,035 in grant funds to 76 area nonprofit organizations at a gathering at the Laconia Country Club.

Nonprofit leaders accepted their checks during the event and celebrated the largest allocation, to the most organizations, in the Children's Fund's 44-year history.

Grants received will be used by the organizations to fund wide-ranging programs that support local children and families in need in the areas of abuse mitigation, child and afterschool programming, clothing, emergency needs, family support and education, food insufficiency, health needs, holiday, housing, literacy, mentoring, recreation and camp, and substance abuse mitigation.

"We are so proud to be able to support these amazing organizations that work tirelessly all year round to support the most vulnerable among us," said the fund's Executive Director Jennifer Kelley. "We are grateful for the work you do and so thrilled to be able to help you make a difference."

The Children's Fund raised \$883,023 in 2025, and its Board of Directors approved a funding bud-



get of \$765,035, which represented a 15 percent increase over 2024 grants. Eighty-two applicants requested \$1,014,000.

After making the grants, \$117,988 remained in the Children's Fund's budget to cover operating costs and a reserve for emergency expenses.

Six applicants were denied funding because they either were not eligible, withdrew or their mission

was not aligned with the Children's Fund.

The Children's Fund's Distribution Committee worked tirelessly from October 2025 through March to review the grant applications and evaluate the health of each organization and its past use of funding to ensure that every dollar the fund grants has impact.

Board Chair Doug Morrisette is pleased with the process the organization

uses to determine grant eligibility.

"Our process is thorough, transparent and trusted," Morrisette said. "We are confident that funds we raise and distribute significantly work to improve the lives of local children and their families by ensuring their basic needs are met, and they have opportunities to thrive."

Distribution Committee Chair Larry Poliquin said,

"The committee is charged with problem-solving, analysis, empathy and community awareness, so we can assure all who donate, bid and volunteer that the funding is being spent wisely."

For a list of organizations that received funding, visit ChildrensFundNH.org/whereourmoneygoes.

The next round of grant applications will be due by Oct. 15. To apply for

funding or learn more, visit ChildrensFundNH.org/apply-for-funding.

In the past 44 years, the Children's Fund has distributed over \$10 million to nonprofit organizations in the community.

For more information, visit ChildrensFundNH.org.

About the Greater Lakes Region Children's Fund

Numerous fundraising events in the Lakes Region throughout the year support the Greater Lakes Region Children's Fund, including the Children's Auction, our four-day signature event every December; Pub Mania; Christmas in July; and the Sweepstakes Social. In the past four decades we have distributed more than \$10 million to over 80 nonprofits that serve low-income families and children in the Lakes Region, all through volunteer efforts, community donations and corporate sponsorship. The Auction falls under the umbrella of the Greater Lakes Region Charitable Fund for Children, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that helps local community organizations that serve children and families in need. For more information about the Auction, the nonprofits it supports and how you can help, visit ChildrensFundNH.org.

Comfort Keepers Vision loss

BY MARTHA SWATS
Owner/Administrator
Comfort Keepers

Losing your vision can feel a little like the world is closing in on you. For many seniors with vision loss, this feeling is often actualized with a diminished ability to engage in daily activities, such as preparing a meal or using the telephone, that most of us take for granted. Vision loss is a major contributor to disability, the loss of independence, and reduced quality of life, and more than 2.9 million Americans aged 65 or older suffer from vision impairment. While the chance of vision loss increases with age, and there is the misconception that it should be taken as a normal part of aging, it is not any less traumatic for the older individual than it would be for a younger person. It may, in fact, be the most traumatic health problem many seniors face. The psychosocial effects of vision loss in seniors can have detrimental consequences.

Numerous studies have shown that seniors with vision loss experience greater difficulty with daily activities than those who suffer from other chronic conditions. Senior adults

with vision loss also report a greater number of chronic conditions, such as diabetes, heart disease, and stroke than those who do not have vision difficulties. This can be attributed to a poorer diet as low-vision seniors are four times more likely to have difficulty preparing meals than their normal-vision counterparts. This may also be directly linked to the fact that low-vision seniors are less likely to be physically active. (Only 59.6 percent of low-vision seniors report activity compared to 70.2 percent of normal-vision seniors.) This is not surprising when you consider that compared to normal-vision seniors, low-vision seniors are more than three times more likely to find it difficult to get outside and are three times as likely to have difficulties walking.

As a result, visually impaired seniors have noticeably higher levels of depression and anxiety than seniors with other chronic conditions. Because of their visual impairment, they may tend to isolate more and stop engaging in activities that they once enjoyed. Researchers have discovered that it is actually these higher levels of depression and anxiety that

contribute to the seniors' difficulty performing everyday tasks more so than their visual disability. As visually impaired seniors become more depressed because of their vision loss, they begin to have more medical problems, creating a vicious cycle where the depression creates a worsening physical state and the worsening physical state increases depression.

The good news is that with support and therapy designed to help visually impaired seniors regain their independence, this cycle can be broken. Doctors can prescribe rehabilitation that will allow seniors to learn to cope with and manage their vision loss so that they can remain active participants in their communities. Family, friends, and caregivers can also help these seniors with many activities, such as meal preparation and transportation to events, appointments, and gatherings, so that their isolation is limited and they can carry on with their daily lives. By staying active and

social low-vision seniors can reduce their chances of suffering from depression, which then decreases their overall risks of developing additional chronic conditions

About Comfort Keepers
Comfort Keepers is a trusted provider of both medical and non-medical in-home care services, dedicated to helping seniors and adults live safely, independently, and with dignity. Our comprehensive services include companionship, transportation, housekeeping, meal preparation, personal care, mobility assistance, private duty nursing, and other support services. We also offer Safety Choice Personal Emergency Response Units, providing an added layer of security and peace of mind for clients and families. Proudly serving New Hampshire residents since 2005, Comfort Keepers is committed to thinking outside the box—exploring innovative solutions to meet the evolving needs of our community. To learn more,

call 603-536-6060 or visit NHComfortKeepers.com.

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Online version: <http://www.comfortkeepers.com/home/info-center/arti>

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Opinion

Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

Preserving the stories that built our towns

Every town has a story.

Sometimes, it is written in old photographs tucked into historical society archives. Sometimes, it appears in weathered gravestones in a quiet cemetery. Other times it lives in the memories of longtime residents who can still point to a field and recall what stood there decades ago.

In communities like Belmont, Northfield, Sanbornton, and Tilton, those stories are part of what gives each town its identity.

New Hampshire towns are fortunate to have deep roots. Many of the buildings, roads, and institutions that residents rely on today trace their origins back well over a century. Town halls that still host meetings today once welcomed earlier generations for the same purpose. Schools, churches, and village centers have evolved over time but still reflect the history of the people who built them.

That sense of continuity is not accidental.

It survives because residents have taken care to preserve it.

Historical societies, libraries, and dedicated volunteers play an important role in protecting local history. They collect documents, photographs, maps, and personal accounts that help future generations understand how their communities came to be. Without that effort, much of the past would quietly disappear.

Yet preserving local history is not only the work of organizations.

In many cases, it begins with ordinary people.

A family that keeps old photographs labeled with names and dates is preserving part of a town's record. A resident who shares memories about a former mill, a schoolhouse, or a long-closed business adds another piece to the story. Even small details can become valuable over time.

Communities change, as they always have. Roads are widened, buildings are renovated, and new families arrive to build lives in towns that others once called home. Change is a natural part of growth.

But remembering where a town came from helps guide where it goes next.

Understanding the history of local industries, schools, farms, and neighborhoods provides context for decisions about development and preservation. It reminds residents that the communities they live in today were shaped by the choices and efforts of generations before them.

And it can strengthen a sense of shared identity.

When people learn about the early settlers who built homes on the hillsides of Sanbornton, the industries that once operated along the rivers in Tilton, or the civic traditions that have long defined Belmont and Northfield, they begin to see their towns as part of a much larger story.

That awareness can foster pride, and with pride comes a desire to care for the places that have been passed down.

Small-town history does not belong only in museum displays or archival boxes. It lives in the buildings still standing on Main Streets, the traditions that continue year after year, and the memories that residents carry with them.

By taking the time to preserve and share those stories, communities ensure that the past remains part of everyday life.

And in towns where history runs deep, that connection remains one of the strongest foundations a community can have.

COURTESY

"The Statues of Tilton, NH" will be presented by John Ciriello of the Tilton Historical Society at the Tilton Senior Center on Thursday, March 26 at noon. Come learn about the dozens of statues that popped up around town during Tilton's Golden Age in the late 1800s. A phenomenon that started in France called "Statumania" quickly spread to this side of the pond. It's mentioned in the newspaper that Tilton may have had as many as 150 at one time! Although only a handful remains today, there is photographic proof and written accounts which state that there might be some truth to this incredible claim! Come find out! This program is free and open to the public. The Tilton Senior Center is located at 11 Grange Rd. in Tilton. Please call 603-527-8291 if you have any questions.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A must-see movie in this time of Trump

To the Editor:

March 14's New York Times has a two-page spread picturing plans for an 8,500-occupants detainment center to handle ICE-captives. 8,500 detainees could be held in Social Circle, Ga. "At over a million square feet, it would be larger than any single jail or prison building in America." A sickening possibility. Human ingenuity used for this? Business profit made like this? Details: two thirds used for pods and one third for administration. First-floor layout shows 5,000 people in 80 pods. One-hour daily recreation in small space. The density of detainees (prisoners -- there unwillingly) will "need a huge amount of ventilation." "At least some interior walls should be solid." Department of Homeland Security's recent structures

with chain-link fence walls let outbreaks of measles and COVID spread.

Social Circle construction will start "as early as mid-May," taking 60 to 75 days. Anyone in this inhumane scheme claim a conscience? Anyone in this shameful scheme show love to family and friends? Every WW2 movie about Hitler's cooperative Germans, comes to mind. A new, 2026 Swedish documentary, "The Swedish Connection," about a diplomat who quietly saves thousands of Jewish lives from death camps, is on Netflix and reflects on our USA-now. Watch it.

Sincerely,

Lynn Rudmin Chong
Sanbornton

New Hampshire's fifth season

There are four official seasons in the calendar.

But anyone who has lived in New Hampshire for more than about five minutes knows that we actually have five.

Winter.
Spring.
Summer.
Fall.

And then there's mud season.

Mud season doesn't show up on a calendar. It arrives quietly, usually sometime in March, when winter begins losing its grip, but spring hasn't quite gathered the energy to take over.

The snowbanks start shrinking. The sun hangs around a little longer each afternoon. And the ground, which has been frozen solid for months, begins to soften.

That's when things get interesting.

The first sign of mud season is usually the driveway. What looked like a perfectly respectable driveway in February suddenly develops the personality of oatmeal. Tires sink a little deeper. Boots come back into the house looking like

KIND FOLKS, COLD WINTERS

By CHIPPY

they've walked through a chocolate factory.

And heaven

help you if you try to walk across the lawn.

Every New Hampshire resident eventually learns the same lesson: March is not the month for nice shoes.

When I was younger, I used to think mud season was something to complain about. You'd hear folks at the diner talking about it every year.

"Road's a mess." "Truck's covered in it." "Lost a boot walking the dog yesterday."

And it's true. If you live on a dirt road, mud season can be a real adventure. The town road crews do their best, but there are limits to what you can do when the frost starts leaving the ground and the whole world turns soft.

Still, somewhere along the way, I began to see mud season a little differently.

For one thing, it means winter is finally loosening its grip.

By the time March rolls around, most of us have had just about enough of

scraping windshields and shoveling snow. Even the most loyal winter lovers start glancing at the calendar and wondering when they'll see grass again.

Mud season is the first hint that change is coming.

You start noticing little things.

The snowbanks along the road shrink a little every day. Water trickles along the edges of the pavement where ice used to sit for weeks. The sun has a different warmth to it, even if the air still carries a bite.

And then one afternoon you hear it.

The sound of running water.

Not the frozen silence of winter, but the lively rush of melting snow finding its way down the hills and into the brooks. Around here, that sound is almost as welcome as birds returning in the spring.

Of course, mud season does come with its own rules.

You keep a pair of old boots by the door. You expect the dog to come home looking like he wrestled a swamp monster. And if you're driving down a back road, you learn to take things a little slower.

There's also a certain humor that comes with it.

My wife will sometimes look out the window at the yard this time of year and say, "Well, it's not exactly pretty yet."

And she's right.

March in New Hampshire is not what the tourism brochures would call picturesque. The snow is patchy. The grass is still asleep. The ground looks like it's been through a long winter—which, of course, it has.

But underneath all that mud is something hopeful.

The earth is waking up again.

Soon enough the mud will dry. The grass will turn green. The lakes will open up. Someone down the road will start working on their boat again.

And before long we'll all be standing outside one warm afternoon wondering where winter went.

Until then, we'll pull on the boots, keep the car a little cleaner than the driveway, and remind ourselves that mud season is simply New Hampshire's way of turning the page.

It might be messy.

But it's also the first sign that better weather is on the way.



Winnisquam Echo

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NHBM's Signature Boat Building program returns this July



MOULTONBOROUGH — The New Hampshire Boat Museum's Youth, Family, and Adult Boat Building Class returns this summer from July 11–19. Held at the

Wolfeboro campus, the popular program invites participants to transform a kit of raw materials into a fully functional, handcrafted watercraft in just over a week.

“There is a profound sense of magic that happens in the program,” said Devon Kurtz, Executive Director of the New Hampshire Boat Museum.

“Participants arrive with a dream and a pile of wood — and nine days later, they are standing on the shores of Lake Wentworth with a boat they built with their own two hands.”

The 2026 session features five distinct boat models to suit every skill level and interest. These models include classic canoes and kayaks, which are elegant designs for solo or tandem paddling. The Wood Duck 12 Kayak is this year's featured model, known for its stability and spacious cockpit. Participants can also build a modern, lightweight pad-

dleboard or Bevin's Skiff (a family-friendly project perfect for youth teams).

The class runs daily from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at 399 Center St. in Wolfeboro. Registration is open now at nhbm.org. The program concludes with a celebratory Group Launch on Lake Wentworth on Sunday, July 19.

Financial assistance is available to ensure the program remains accessible to everyone. To learn more or register, visit nhbm.org/boat-building.

Founded in 1992, the

New Hampshire Boat Museum is dedicated to preserving and sharing the state's rich freshwater boating heritage. Through dynamic exhibits, youth programs like Junior Skippers, and on-the-water experiences, NHBM brings New Hampshire's boating story to life.

NHBM is supported by its generous partners, including Goodhue Boat Company, Eastern Propane and Oil, Kingswood Press and Design Studio, KW Lakes and Mountains, Taylor Community, Belletetes, and North Water Marine.

Scholarship Foundation accepting applications through April 1



Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation's Executive Director, Chris Guilmett provides instruction and answers questions to a group of students from the HUOT Career and Technical Center regarding the LRSF application and process. Reminding them that the application deadline of April 1 is fast approaching.

REGION — The Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation's application deadline of April 1 for the 2026 – 2027 Academic Year is fast approaching! Applications received after April 1 cannot be accepted.

Graduates of Laconia High School, Gilford High School, and Belmont High School, as well as Winnisquam Regional High School, Prospect Mountain High School and Interlakes High School, along with home schooled and pri-

vate school students who reside in Belknap County, are eligible to apply. Adult learners that are looking to either continue or further their education and are legal residents of Laconia, Gilford, or Belmont are encouraged to apply.

The Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation acts as a clearinghouse of donor funds, which means only one application is required. Since being established in 1956 through last year, 2025, the Lakes

Region Scholarship Foundation has awarded close to \$11 million to more than 6,270 recipients from more than 650 donor funds.

In 2025 alone, \$901,275 was awarded to 393 local students (including adult learners) going on to secondary education. The application and instructions can be found on the “Applicants” page of the Foundation's Web site at: www.lrscholarship.org.

It's Membership Month at the Laconia Historical & Museum Society!



Behind-the-scenes tour of the Colonial Theatre with Jared Guilmett, 2025. Members who join or renew with LHMS March 1–April 1 receive an exclusive invite to a sweet members-only event in April.

LACONIA — Join the Laconia Historical & Museum Society in March and be part of something impactful. When you join or renew your membership, you help preserve the stories, artifacts, and archives that define Laconia's unique character and community spirit.

Membership is more than a contribution — it's a commitment to protecting our city's heritage and ensuring that future generations can discover, learn from, and celebrate Laconia's past. From safeguarding historic collections to supporting engaging exhibits and programs, your involvement keeps local history alive and accessible.

All current, new, and

renewed members from March 1 to April 1 will receive an exclusive invite to a sweet, members-only event in April.

To learn about member

benefits, become a new member, or renew a current membership, visit www.laconiahistory.com or follow LHMS on Facebook and Instagram.

Public meeting to determine conservation issues and needs

LACONIA — On Thursday, March 19, you are invited to give your input on natural resource conservation issues in Belknap County and help set program priorities for 2026–2027. There will be two in person sessions, one from 4 to 5:30 p.m. and the other from 6–7:30 p.m., to be held in the county's public meeting room at 32 County Dr. in Laconia. You only need to attend one session.

This is a free event, but we ask that you register online at <https://www.belknapccd.org/outreach> or contacting the Belknap County Conservation District (BCCD) at emailbelknapconservation@gmail.com. The information gathered will be utilized by BCCD, their partner organizations, and the USDA -Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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CDFA awards Franklin Opera House, Inc. \$312,500 in tax credits to support renovation



FRANKLIN — The New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) has awarded Franklin Opera House, Inc. \$312,500 in tax credits to support the renovation of the performance space within Soldiers' Memorial Hall in downtown Franklin. These critical

funds will enable upgrades beyond those included in the City of Franklin's broader renovation efforts, ensuring that the historic space, utilized for community gatherings, events and performing arts, is fully equipped to meet modern infrastructure and safety standards. The deadline

for the first half of this tax credit goal is March 31. Businesses can pledge online at <https://nhcdfa.org/investing-in-nh-communities/electronic-pledge/>. According to Dan Darling, Executive Director of Franklin Opera House, Inc., "This funding fills a critical need as we embark

on our first-ever capital campaign to enhance the space for the benefit of the community and to advance the economic vitality of downtown Franklin."

Katy Easterly Martey, Executive Director of CDFA, noted, "This year's awardees have demonstrated a deep dedication to their communities and are leading impactful projects that will deliver critical services and infrastructure needed throughout the Granite State. CDFA's Tax Credit and Capacity Building Programs are a vital resource for New Hampshire nonprofits and municipalities to advance projects that create the foundation for strong, thriving communities and grow our economy."

A unique opportunity for New Hampshire businesses

Through CDFA's Tax Credit Program, New Hampshire businesses have a powerful opportunity to directly support this transformational project—while also receiving substantial financial benefit. By purchasing tax credits awarded to Franklin Opera House:

Businesses receive a 75 percent New Hampshire state tax credit on their contribution.

Credits may be applied

against the Business Profits Tax, Business Enterprise Tax, or Insurance Premium Tax.

Contributions also qualify as a charitable donation, providing additional federal deduction potential.

Businesses can visibly demonstrate their commitment to community revitalization, economic growth, and the arts—values increasingly important to employees, customers, and local partners.

Investing in Franklin Opera House is not only a strategic tax advantage; it is an investment in the cultural and economic future of downtown Franklin. Supporting this project strengthens the local workforce environment, draws visitors to the region, and enhances quality of life—benefits that ripple outward to businesses throughout the state.

Franklin Opera House invites New Hampshire businesses to participate in this exciting moment in Franklin's revitalization. By purchasing tax credits, companies play a direct role in transforming Soldiers' Memorial Hall into a vibrant, accessible, and welcoming performing arts center for generations to come.

Businesses interested in purchasing tax credits or learning more about

investment opportunities are encouraged to contact Franklin Opera House or explore CDFA's Tax Credit Program at: <https://nhcdfa.org/investing-in-nh-communities/tax-credit-program/>.

About Franklin Opera House, Inc.

The mission of Franklin Opera House, Inc. is to provide wholesome community entertainment, foster arts awareness across all ages, and create a cultural hub and center for social connection in a historic and inviting setting.

About the Community Development Finance Authority

The Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) is a statewide nonprofit public authority focused on maximizing the value and impact of community development, economic development, and clean energy initiatives throughout New Hampshire. CDFA leverages a variety of financial and technical resources, including state tax credits, federal Community Development Block Grant funds, and the CDFA Clean Energy Fund. Learn more at www.nhcdfa.org or by calling (603) 2262170.

Valley Improv brings evening of spontaneous comedy to Franklin



FRANKLIN — Franklin Opera House is pleased to present an evening of high-energy improvisational comedy by Valley Improv. This hilarious night of spontaneous comedy will be held at Franklin Public Library. The performance will run from 7 to 9 p.m. on March 28, offering a night of audience-driven humor that entertains both children and adults.

Founded in 2008, Valley Improv has toured northern New England, delivering fast-paced, interactive comedy that hinges on the creativity of its performers and the audience's imagination. Using a series of "games" and on-paced, interactive

comedy that hinges on the creativity of its performers and the imagination of the audience. Using a series of "games" and on-the-spot storytelling, the troupe crafts unique plots, characters, and dialogue from suggestions supplied by the crowd. The result is a dynamic, inclusive experience that guarantees laughter for everyone in attendance. This wonderful group has built a reputation across northern New England for its quick wit, collaborative spirit, and ability to turn any suggestion into a memorable theatrical moment. Their performances blend humor, heart, and spontaneity, creating an unforgettable experience for audiences of all ages.

No scripts. No rehearsals. Every moment is created live, and audience members become part of the show through their suggestions.

Tickets for this show are available in advance at www.FOHNH.org or at the door. Adults \$14, Seniors \$12, Students \$10. Seating is limited; early purchase is recommended.

Special thanks to Franklin businesses Peabody Place and Beck & Bellucci for sponsoring this event.



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I have been practicing law since 1985, after graduating from Vermont Law School. Before starting my legal career, I earned a Master's Degree in counseling from SUNY, Plattsburgh, and completed my undergraduate studies in education at Temple University in Philadelphia. Before entering the legal field, I worked as an inner-city high school teacher and ran a cactus business, selling plants as a street vendor in downtown Philadelphia. My legal career began in Saranac Lake and Lake Placid, New York, where I practiced law until 2002. In that year, I passed the New Hampshire Bar and relocated to New Hampshire to continue my practice. I am an active member of the New Hampshire Bar Association. Over the years, I have served as President of the Grafton County Bar Association and as Chair of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Section. I also served on the New Hampshire Bar Association Board of Governors for 2 terms. Currently, I am a member of the New Hampshire Bar Legislative Committee and a Fellow of the New Hampshire Bar Foundation.

I also hosted a weekly radio show called "Family Law Talk Radio," which featured professionals with expertise in various related subjects. In recent years, I have focused my practice on Estate Planning and administration. This includes drafting wills and trusts, as well as probate and trust administration.

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Just Duet returns to the Colonial Theatre!



Contestants for last year's (2025) Just Duet get together for a group photo.

COURTESY

LACONIA — Fifteen talented duos will be taking to the Colonial Theatre stage on Saturday, March 21, at 7 p.m. to raise money for Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative programming and the Colonial Theatre Advancement Fund. Powerhouse, the resident theatre company of the Colonial and Spectacle Live, the management company of the Colonial, team up to produce this popular American Idol-style Broadway musical singing competition.

This year's competition features the most teams

ever - 15 duos who perform with Powerhouse and on stages all around the state. Each duo performs an up-tempo and ballad musical theatre song, one number in each act. Competitors include Lauren Shelby Douglas and Nora McBurnett, Katie Duncan and Tess Hodges, Anna Cook and Louie Laurendeau, Kaitlyn Cooper and Lily Allard, Garrison Barron and Chris Catalan, Deidre Cullen and Samantha Paquette, Deirdre Arcand and Emma Molloy, Connor Butt and Aidan Lamont, Eric and Kelsey Berthiaume, Rob-

by Sturtevant and Majed Almustafa, Emilee Thomson and Jeremy Dingman, Sharleigh Thomson and Nikolai Fernandez, Connor Forbes and Meredith Carver, Lindsey Packer and Julie Hirshan Hart, Rachel Hunton and Heather Bullimore.

This year's twist is called Super Team Edition, where two teams can team up for a quartet that counts for both teams, and the competition portion of the show will end with a dynamic quartet from the new musical "Suffs!" Other musicals represented include

Disney favorites from "The Lion King," "Beauty and the Beast," and "Frozen," Mel Brooks' "The Producers" and "Young Frankenstein," "Hamilton," "The Great Gatsby," "Hairspray," "Beetlejuice," "Into the Woods" and many more.

Three-time champions Joel and Laura Ivaskiewicz are hosting the event this year, ensuring a new champion will be crowned through a combination of judges' scores and audience "votes" - every dollar donated online in advance or at the event counts as one point for the team earning the dollar! Jim Rogato will once again be on hand as the event announcer. And Powerhouse's Broadway show choir, The Power Chords, will entertain the audience while votes are being tallied after the second act.

The 2026 judges are Laconia City Council member Eric Hoffman, Jared Guilmett - Chair of the Colonial Theatre Advisory Board and partner at Misiaszek Turpin pllc, Katherine Switala Elmhurst - Acting Executive Director of the Belknap Mill, and Heather Bishop - radio personality from Lakes FM 101.5.

Prizes are donated by many local businesses -

check the Powerhouse website for the generous donors as well as all the information on the event and how to buy tickets which are available on the Colonial Theatre's website, coloniallaconia.com, and through powerhousesh.org/justduet. For those who can't attend but would like to support the fundraiser by voting for your favorite duos using the links provided online. Please only use the links on the Colonial or Powerhouse websites for tickets so you aren't overcharged by third-party sites.

Says Powerhouse Producer Bryan Halperin, "This will be our biggest Just Duet ever! If you are a fan of Broadway musicals we hope you'll enjoy this abundance of musical talent on the Colonial Stage and help us raise some money for a good cause."

For all the details on Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative, auditions, and other events in the 2026 season, check out powerhousesh.org or email info@powerhousesh.org. There are still opportunities available for businesses to sponsor events in the 2026 season.

The original owner, Benjamin Piscopo, was from Italy, and the theatre featured a fire curtain depicting Venice as seen from the

water. In August of 2002, the theatre closed after 87 years of operation. On June 15, 2015, the City of Laconia announced a partnership with the Belknap Economic Development Council (BEDC) to purchase, renovate, and reopen the Colonial. The newly reopened Colonial Theatre has a seating capacity of 750 and plays host to various performances, including music, theatre, comedy, and civic events. Spectacle Management manages the Colonial Theatre and is home to the Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative. The Colonial Theatre is located at 609 Main St., Laconia, NH 03246. www.colonial-laconia.com

Founded in 2012, Spectacle Live offers venue operations, booking, programming, marketing, and production services across New England from offices in Lexington, MA, Lowell, MA, and Laconia, NH. The company partners with over a dozen venues to manage facilities and promote a variety of events, including concerts, comedy, theater, and family entertainment. For more information, contact Pete Lally at plally@spectaclelive.com or 617-531-1257. www.spectaclelive.com

Audubon announces Cape Horn program by Becky Suomala



MOULTONBOROUGH — On Thursday, March 19 at 7 p.m. at the Loon Center in Moultonborough, the Lakes Region Chapter of the New Hampshire Audubon Society will present a program called "A Birding Cruise around Cape Horn," by Becky Suomala.

Join Becky on a boat trip from Santiago, Chile around Cape Horn to Bue-

nos Aires. In addition to seabirding for albatross and the other pelagic species in southern waters, there were landbird stops in Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay. One of the highlights was a visit to a penguin colony on the Falkland Islands. See some of the great seabirds, landbirds, and even some mammals like guanacos; as well as the beauty of Cape Horn, the Strait of Magellan, and

the Beagle Channel.

Becky Suomala is an avid birder who birds extensively in New Hampshire and takes birding trips to far flung places. She retired from NH Audubon in 2024 after over 36 years as a biologist. She led research on Common Nighthawks in NH and participated in numerous field projects including Common Tern restoration at the Isles of Shoals. She is a songbird bander at the Appledore Island Migration Station in spring and fall and tends her garden in the summer.

The Loon Center is located on Lee's Mill Road; follow the signs on Blake Road from Route 25 near the Moultonborough Central School, or from Route 109, turn on to Lee Road and turn left on Lee's Mill Road.

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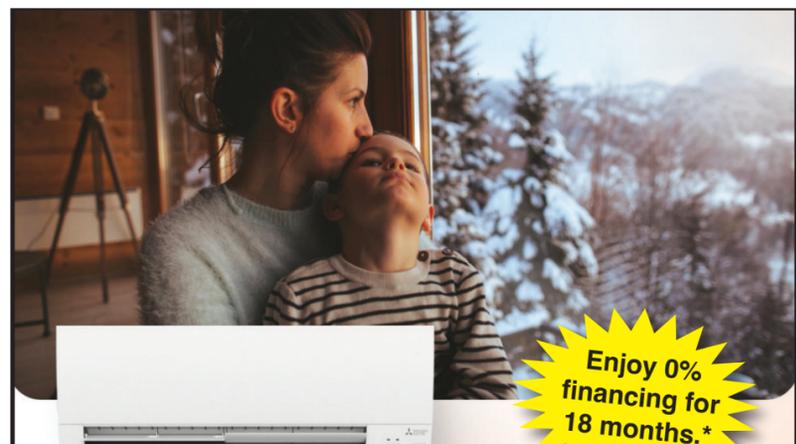
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ALL-STATE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

Mitchell Roy of Derryfield was named Coach of the Year and Richie Perez of Winnisquam was named Sub Varsity Coach of the Year.

In Division IV, Profile's Daryion Faustin and Littleton's Sam Reagey earned First Team honors while Woodsville's Ryan Walker and Groveton's Hunter Parks and Ashton Kenison earned Second Team. Hon-

orable Mention was awarded to Brodie Bacon of Moultonborough, Connor Roy and Marcus Hampson of Littleton, Miles Constantine of Profile and Max Grondin of Gorham.

First Team honors also went to Player of the year Enzo Yonkeu of Holy Family, Cai Summers of Portsmouth Christian, Connor Dixon of Hinsdale and Blake Snyder of Epping.

Also earning Second Team honors were Luke Farland of Concord Chris-

tian, Keltin Moulton of Farmington and Nick Minutelli of Newmarket.

Honorable Mention was also presented to Daemon Jaimes of Pittsburg-Canaan, Adrian Huff of Nute, Zealand Marquis of Portsmouth Christian, Chris Colon of Hinsdale, Nathan Holmes of Franklin, Matt Napoletano of Newmarket, Chuck Phillips of Mascenic, Cooper Weir of Colebrook, Lucas Watson of Farmington and Braiden Elliot of Pittsfield.

Faustin and Littleton's Whalen Lemire earned All-Defensive Team honors along with Jackie Prompradit of Newmarket and Summers and Farland.

Littleton's Trevor Howard was named Division IV Coach of the Year and Alex Cheek of Newmarket was named Sub Varsity Coach of the Year.

In Division II, Kingswood's Brady Moulton earned First Team honors and Plymouth's Turner Oldenburg earned Honorable Mention.

Joining Moulton in earning First Team honors were Player of Year Alton Williams of Hollis-Brookline, Max Houde of Manchester West, Roy Lucas of Hanover, Andrew Fitzger-

ald of Pembroke and Brady Hegan of Pelham.

Earning Second Team honors were Weston Hickman of Souhegan, Jesse Cavallo of Sanborn, Grant Hayes of Coe-Brown, Peyton Larrabee of Bow, Ethan Dukette of Merrimack Valley and Luke Estell of Pelham.

Joining Oldenburg in earning Honorable Mention were Wyatt Daigle of Hanover, Dylan Kelley and James Arthur of Hollis-Brookline, Ryan Casey of Bishop Brady, Brady O'Connor of Pelham, Owen Jacques and Will Jernigan of Oyster River, Brendan O'Keefe of Bow, Amara Freeman of Manchester West, Max Call of ConVal, Miles Saunders

of Lebanon, Brady Smith of Merrimack Valley and Javien Sinclair and Colin Dube of Pembroke.

Sinclair, Kelley and Daigle were joined by Connor Eno of Bow, Brayden Mariano of Manchester West and Osinachi Nwabueze of Pelham in earning All-Defensive Team honors.

Ryan Kelley of Hollis-Brookline was named the Division II Coach of the Year and Lindsay Poulin of Laconia was named Division II Sub Varsity Coach of the Year.

Sports Editor Joshua Spaulding can be reached at 279-4516, ext. 155 or josh@salmonpress.news.

Songwriter Round-Up show lineup set for March 26

MEREDITH — The partnership between Katie Dobbins Music (Gilford) and Hermit Woods Winery & Eatery (Meredith) which has brought the monthly music series Songwriter Round-Up to the Lakes Region is set to deliver another great show at the end of this month. Held in the region's premier listening room, The Loft located on the second floor of the Winery, this series has been giving audience members a chance to experience the original music of talented singer-songwriters from the New England area and beyond. At each show three artists share their songs and stories in a unique in-the-round style performance. Held on the last Thursday of each month, this intimate series features two different songwriters each month alongside host performer Katie Dobbins.

The series presents area residents and visitors an opportunity to experience the show "magic" that each new lineup creates. Winery

co-founder and owner Bob Manley is thrilled to have his establishment be home to the monthly Songwriter Round-Up Series.

Remarking on the success of the series, Manley reaffirms the valued partnership the Winery has developed with Katie Dobbins Music, expressing, "Working alongside Katie Dobbins and her Songwriter Round-Up Series has been an absolute delight. Katie brings an engaging presence to the stage, effortlessly connecting with our audiences and showcasing incredible talent with each performance."

The next Songwriter Round-Up show takes place on Thursday, March 26, featuring the Lakes Region's own Katie Dobbins, a singer-songwriter who delivers heart-felt lyrics with beautiful vocal tones wrapped in guitar and piano melodies; Carrie Welling, a singer-songwriter based in Nashville with honest lyrics delivered

by her bold, sultry vocals and supported by Americana pop melodies; and Olivia Conway, a young aspiring country singer and songwriter from New Hampshire with a passion for music and connecting to audiences through her songs. All of these artists bring their own unique life-lyrics, melodies, and styles to the stage. This will be an evening of great original music and dynamic entertainment that you won't want to miss. Learn more about each of these artists on the Hermit Woods Winery website.

A complimentary wine tasting will begin at 5:30 p.m., the Loft opens at 6 p.m. for seating & dinner orders, and music starts at 7 p.m. Patrons can further enhance their evening by selecting from a menu of tasty items available from onsite Chef Eric Huckins. Tickets can be purchased in advance at hermitwoodswinery.com/the-loft or in-person at the Winery.

Escape winter's chill with new exhibit at Lakes Region Art Association Gallery

TILTON — Tired of the endless gray skies, snow, and sub-freezing temps that define February in the Lakes Region? The Lakes Region Art Association (LRAA) has the perfect antidote: "Art in the Garden - Carved & Cultivated," a vibrant group exhibition bursting with the colors, textures, and life of gardens and nature's beauty. Featuring original works from talented local artists, the show runs Feb. 19 through March 15 at the Lakes Region Art Gallery in Tanger Outlets, 120 Laconia Rd., Suite 300, Tilton.

This uplifting collection transports visitors from winter's grip straight into lush, sculpted gardens—think carved elegance, blooming abundance, textured landscapes, and

serene organic forms brought to life through pastels, watercolors, mixed media, and more. It's an early glimpse of spring's promise, right when New Hampshire needs it most, celebrating the creative spirit of our community and the enduring allure of cultivated beauty.

A lively Opening Reception welcomes everyone on Friday, Feb. 20, from 4 to 6 p.m. Meet the artists, sip and mingle, enjoy light refreshments, and soak in the garden-fresh inspiration in a warm, friendly setting.

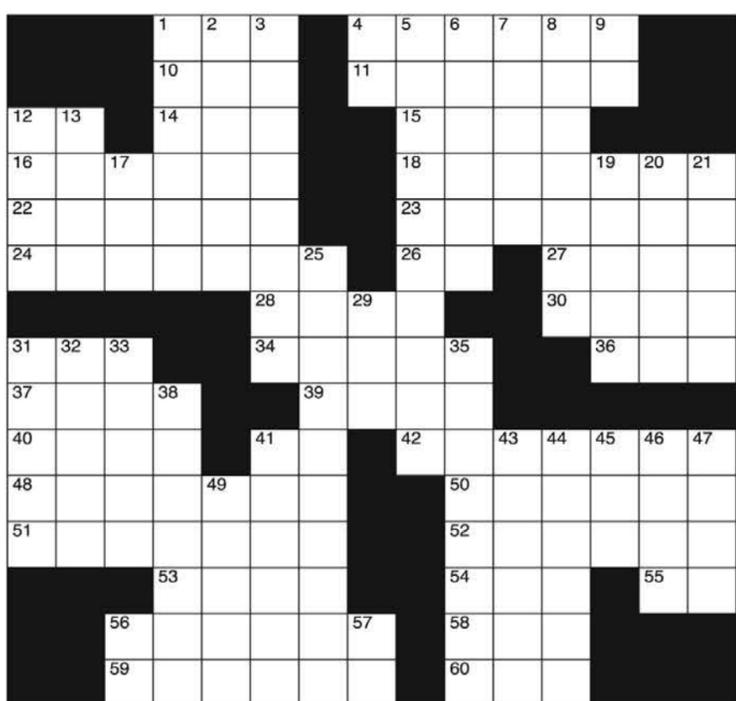
Adding extra fun to the evening, a Reverse Paint and Sip - "Forest Stillness" runs concurrently from 5 to 7 p.m. in the gallery. No experience required—guided instruction

helps you create your own tranquil forest scene while you unwind (supplies included; \$40 per person; register ahead via the gallery Web site).

The Lakes Region Art Gallery continues its long tradition (rooted in the 1940s as the Laconia Art Association) as a welcoming hub for local creativity, with rotating shows of original art in diverse media. Open Thursdays through Sundays—check lakesregionartgallery.org for current hours and details.

For more info on the paint-and-sip registration, contact the Lakes Region Art Association Gallery at (603) 998-0029 or visit www.lakesregionartgallery.org.

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Inclined to do
- 4. Sketches
- 10. Book of Chronicles (abbr.)
- 11. Atomic #58
- 12. Dorm official
- 14. Small Eurasian deer
- 15. Southern constellation
- 16. Workers' groups
- 18. Former
- 22. Excellent
- 23. Romance language related to Spanish
- 24. Reference
- 26. Equally
- 27. Dirty towels
- 28. A cargo (abbr.)
- 30. Ammunition
- 31. You get one in summer
- 34. Slang for trucks with trailers
- 36. Swiss river
- 37. Exchange rate
- 39. British School
- 40. College teacher
- 41. Foreign Service
- 42. Horse gear
- 48. Cost to fly
- 50. A salt or ester of boric acid
- 51. Mocking
- 52. One who bird-watches
- 53. Concluding passage
- 54. A major division of geological time
- 55. Sodium
- 56. A way to produce
- 58. Soak
- 59. Laughed loudly and harshly
- 60. Affirmative

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Moth species phalonia _____
- 2. Quantum of energy
- 3. Break the law
- 4. Location of White House
- 5. Official cancellation of a decision
- 6. Where rockers work
- 7. Cut of beef: _____ mignon
- 8. Nocturnal burrowing reptile
- 9. Atomic #62
- 12. Genus of evergreen shrubs
- 13. Flowering plant of the legume family
- 17. Inches per minute (abbr.)
- 19. Tropical fruit
- 20. Hot fluid beneath the earth's crust
- 21. James _____, painter
- 25. Popular dessert
- 29. Payment (abbr.)
- 31. Cuisine style
- 32. Genus of true flies
- 33. City in western France
- 35. Arrogance
- 38. One holding a position of command
- 41. Weekday
- 43. An evening party
- 44. Print errors
- 45. Not good
- 46. Egyptian Sun god
- 47. East German town
- 49. Olfactory property
- 56. Atomic #37
- 57. "Pollock" actor Harris



PUZZLE SOLUTION

Ready to build? Join MVSBS for a construction loan seminar this spring

REGION — MVSBS (Meredith Village Savings Bank) will host in-person seminars during March, April and May to help individuals navigate the home construction loan process. Attendees will gain valuable insight from MVSBS's construction loan specialists on financing options, budgeting strategies, and ways to stay ahead of potential challenges. As an added benefit, those who attend will be eligible for a \$500 closing cost credit from MVSBS (conditions apply).

"Building a home is an exciting milestone, but it can also feel overwhelming," said Lauren Young, MVSBS Vice President Residential Mortgage Sales NMLS# 1890212. "These seminars are designed to help break down the process, answer common questions, and give attendees a clearer understanding of the Bank's role in supporting them at every step — from planning and financing to closing — so they can move forward with confidence in their homebuilding plans."

The public is invited to RSVP to one of the following seminars from 5-7 pm:

March 25: Moultonborough Public Library, Program Meeting Room



From left, Roy Graves, Senior Construction Loan Specialist, and Kenneth Paul, VP Residential Construction Lending Officer, discuss the home construction loan process at a seminar last March. MVSBS will host construction loan seminars again this spring.

- April 14: Pease Public Library, Plymouth
- April 16: MVSBS Portsmouth Branch Office
- April 22: MVSBS Laconia Branch Office
- May 6: Pope Memorial Library, North Conway
- May 12: Wolfeboro Public Library

There is no charge to attend and light refreshments will be provided. Go to mvsb.com/class to reserve your space or contact Michele Aguiar at 603-279-9129 for more information.

Spring 2026 Construction Loan Seminar attendees are eligible for a \$500 credit against closing costs at closing for certain new construction 1-4 family residential owner-occupied first mortgages with MVSBS with a completed application within 12 months of the date you attend a seminar. This is subject to qualification,

approval and closing of the loan. This discount excludes home equity and government loans and cannot be used with any other offer or discount. Coupon must be presented at time of application and all eligibility requirements met prior to your new loan closing date. Only one dis-

count permitted per new loan. This discount is void where prohibited, is non-transferable and may be subject to other terms and conditions. Discount may not exceed the borrowers out of pocket closing costs. MVSBS reserves the right to cancel this program at any time.

MVSBS has been serving the essential banking needs of people, businesses, non-profits and municipalities for more than 150 years. As a mutual savings bank, MVSBS has no stockholders but rather operates for the benefit of its customers, employees and community. Since our founding, one thing has always remained true: caring is at the heart of everything we do. By building and nurturing relationships, we believe that we can cultivate a community where we all thrive. It all starts with caring about our customers and neighbors. To learn more, visit any of the local branch offices located in New Hampshire in Alton, Ashland, Center Harbor, Exeter, Gilford, Laconia, Melvin Village, Meredith, Moultonborough, North Conway, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Rochester or Wolfeboro, call 800-922-6872 or visit mvsb.com. MVSBS. Equal Housing Lender. NMLS #466022

LRSO Concert March 21st - "Cowboys and Canyons"



Concertmaster Margaret Hopkins is featured at LRSO's March 21st, 7pm concert at Inter-Lakes Auditorium in Meredith

The Lakes Region Symphony Orchestra continues its 50th anniversary season with Cowboys and Canyons on Saturday, March 21 at 7:00 p.m. at Inter-Lakes Auditorium in Meredith. Guided by conductor Ben Greene, this dynamic concert captures the spirit of the American West through an orchestral journey that ranges from cinematic sweep to rhythmic exuberance.

Featured in this program is violinist Margaret Hopkins, concertmaster of the Lakes Region Symphony Orchestra, as soloist in Mark O'Connor's Fiddle Concerto. This work blends virtuosic technique with the energetic drive of American folk and fiddle traditions, offering audiences a showcase of rhythmic vitality and expressive nuance. Margaret has appeared in concert throughout Europe, Israel, Canada, and across the United States. An accomplished educator and arts leader, she serves on the faculty of the Portland Conservatory of Music and performs regularly with chamber ensembles throughout New England.

The evening also high-

lights John Williams's spirited The Cowboys Overture, a rousing opener with cinematic orchestration; Ferde Grofé's Grand Canyon Suite, a work renowned for its evocative landscapes and expansive sonorities; and the irresistible Hoedown from Aaron Copland's Ro-

deo, a kinetic finale that brings audiences to their feet. These works celebrate the musical imagination of America's Old West.

Looking ahead, LRSO will close its 2025-26 season with Mixtape: Hits of the '60s and '70s on Saturday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m. at the

Colonial Theatre in Laconia and Sunday, May 10 at 3:00 p.m. at Inter-Lakes Auditorium. Featuring guest vocalists Taylor O'Donnell and Adrian Sicam, this upbeat program re-imagines beloved pop classics - from soulful Motown to sing-along pop favorites - with

full symphonic sound.

Tickets for both the March and May concerts are on sale now at www.LRSO.org, where patrons can also find discount packages, seating options, and concert details.

The Lakes Region Symphony Orchestra has been

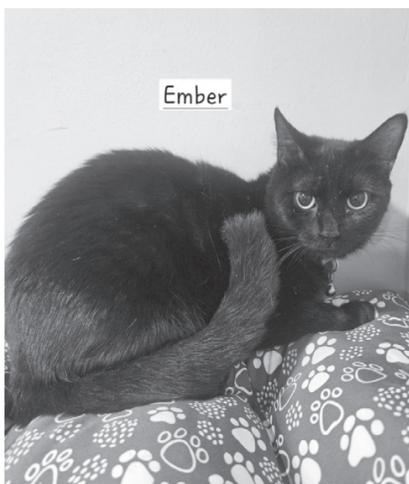
bringing exceptional live music to New Hampshire audiences for 50 years and remains dedicated to inspiring a love of classical music and showcasing the extraordinary talent of local and guest musicians.

PETS OF THE WEEK

Meet Ember!

Ember is a sleek all-black beauty with glowing orange eyes that seem to shine in the dark. She carries herself with a quiet, calm presence and prefers to observe the world before jumping in.

Of the two sisters, Ember is the more chilled-out one. She moves at her own pace, taking everything in with steady confidence. You'll often find her in cozy, dimly lit spots, keeping watch and minding her very important business.



We're still getting to know Ember, as she tends to keep a little mystery about her — but that just makes earning her trust all the more special. She would thrive in a patient home that appreciates a calm, shadowy companion with mesmerizing eyes and a gentle spirit.

If you're drawn to quiet elegance and midnight magic, Ember may just be your perfect girl.



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\$949,000 (5079045)



McQuade Fine Arts adds new pastel



and watercolor classes at Lakes Region Art Gallery
TILTON — McQuade Fine Arts is starting two new 5-week art classes for people with some experience who want to keep improving. Both begin the week of March 24, at the Lakes Region Art Gallery inside Tanger Outlets (120 Laconia Rd., Suite #300, Tilton).

Pastels Beyond Basics Wednesdays, 10 a.m. – noon. For students who already know the basics of pastels. Work on techniques, build confidence, and develop your own style. Pick one bigger project or try several smaller pieces. Cost: \$200.

Watercolor Workout Tuesdays, 1 – 3 p.m. A hands-on practice class for those who've finished beginner watercolor lessons or self-taught basics. Each week includes a new pre-drawn painting, live demos, tips, and feedback. Small groups (max 10 students). Cost: \$200.

Classes are taught by Stephanie C. McQuade in a relaxed, supportive setting. Space is limited, so sign up soon.

For more info and to register, visit: <https://www.mcquadefinearts.com/art-classes>
About McQuade Fine Arts

McQuade Fine Arts, run by artist Stephanie C. McQuade & photographer Michael McQuade, offers original pastel, watercolor paintings, fine art photography, classes, and prints. The focus is on creating art that brings beauty, calm and joy to everyday spaces.

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<p>\$599,900</p>  <p>MLS# 5078440</p> <p>Laconia: Built in 2018, this 3BR/2BA detached condo offers a main-level primary suite, a three-season porch with seasonal lake views, and an oversized walk-out basement. Located minutes from Weirs Beach.</p>	<p>\$165,000</p>  <p>MLS# 5078667</p> <p>Gilmanon: Located in the Smith Meeting House Historic District, this level 1-acre lot is bordered by classic stone walls and comes ready to build with approved plans and permits. It offers a serene rural setting near local amenities.</p>	<p>\$399,900</p>  <p>MLS# 5078441</p> <p>Laconia: This 2BR/2BA home features an attached garage, a direct-entry breezeway, and beautifully landscaped grounds with a private fire pit and BBQ area. Located within walking distance of Opechee Park beaches.</p>	<p>\$499,900</p>  <p>MLS# 5078380</p> <p>Laconia: This year-round detached condo on Lake Winnepesaukee features a 28' U-shaped dock, a jet ski lift, and a private lakeside deck with an outdoor kitchen. The interior is fully updated with granite countertops and black stainless appliances, plus approval is in place for a second-story expansion.</p>
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Celtic Spring Concert at Unitarian Universalist Society of Laconia

LACONIA — Shelby Trevor and Noelle Beaudin present A Celtic Spring—a vibrant, foot-stomping celebration of high-energy fiddle and piano music from Cape Breton, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Scotland, Ireland, Galicia, and Wales. The concert takes place on Sunday, March 29 4 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Laconia.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for children. Tickets may be reserved by calling 603-848-2469 or emailing uuslfundraising@gmail.com. The church is located at 172 Pleasant St., Laconia. Light refreshments will be served.

Shelby Trevor is a performing artist, composer, and educator whose work explores sound and musical ideas beyond the limits of any single genre. He is a founding member of Cosmic Collection Service, an ensemble pushing into new sonic territories with original albums available on Spotify and YouTube.

Trevor's past projects reflect a wide-ranging and dynamic career. He is the founder and former director

of the Amelia Island Community String Orchestra, a founding member of both the Subtropical String Trio and the Spiral Song concert series, conductor for the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestra, staff musician for the Berklee College of Music, and a founding member of the Granite String Band. As a violin soloist, he has appeared with the Suzuki School of Newton Faculty Orchestra, the Lakes Region Symphony Orchestra, and First Coast Opera. His work as an orchestral and studio musician includes collaborations with the Cape Ann Symphony, First Coast Opera, WGBH Studio Orchestra, the Beantown Swing Orchestra, and many others.

In addition to performance, Trevor has held teaching and leadership roles as faculty and concertmaster of the Great Woods Chamber Orchestra at Wheaton College, faculty member at the Suzuki School of Newton, and program developer and educator with both the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival and Arts Alive Nassau.

Noelle Beaudin (piano & hurdy-gurdy) studied



Shelby Trevor and Noelle Beaudin perform on Sunday, March 29 at 4 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Society of Laconia. COURTESY

piano performance and composition at the Boston Conservatory and was an active performer throughout the Boston area before continuing her musical career in France and the United Kingdom. Now based in New Hampshire's Lakes Region, she main-

tains a thriving teaching studio and music summer camp, while performing widely across New England as both a soloist and accompanist.

Beaudin is also recognized as one of the leading hurdy-gurdy performers

and educators in the United States. As co-founder of GurdyWorld.com, her dynamic online presence has attracted a rapidly growing international following. She has released two genre-bending albums—Savage and Wisp—which showcase

her innovative approach to the piano, organ and hurdy-gurdy. She is also featured in a forthcoming film, DOWNBEAT, set to premiere at South by SouthWest Film Festival in March 2026.

Aviation summer camp takes off



Photo

COURTESY

ACE Academy graduate, now licensed pilot, Ethan Seeler, gets ready for takeoff. Since attending ACE Academy, Seeler, currently a college student, has earned his private and commercial pilot's license, is rated to fly single and multi-engine aircraft, has his instrument rating and is licensed as an Airframe and Power Point Mechanic.

GILFORD — WinnAero, the STEM aviation/aerospace education non-profit, announces its summer day camp schedule with a new twist. Due to increasing applications, WinnAero has engaged RegPack, a computerized on-line registration and payment software company to expedite the registration process.

"Our increasing enrollments each year dictated we offer an on-line registration and payment option for parents," said WinnAero Education Director Dan Caron.

The new online process will apply to this summer's ACE Academies held at the Laconia Airport.

"Parents can now submit their student's application fully on-line, reserve a seat early, pay tuition securely and submit required documentation as well," added Caron.

The results have been immediate said Zach Glennon of Meredith. Glennon joined WinnAero as its Technology Consultant responsible for on-boarding the RegPack System. For the previous three years, the ACE Academies have averaged 100 students enrolled. Thus far in 2026, RegPack has already processed 56 applications for the July summer camps.

The dates, times, themes and tuition costs for the ACE Academies summer camps are available at www.winn-aero.org or by contacting Camp Director Caron at dan.caron@winnaero.org. The 2026 session themes include Air Traffic Control, Search & Rescue Techniques, Aerospace Engineering, Pre-Ground School for future pilots, a Space Academy, Drone Operations, and Aeromedical Effects of High Altitude Flight. All sessions are taught by current certified N.H. teachers augmented by subject matter experts. The ACE Academies are day camps for grades 3 through 12 students the weeks of July 6-10 and July 13-17. For more information, visit www.winn-aero.org.

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Full-Time Installers Apprentice
Energysavers Inc, a 50 year old hearth & spa product retailer in the Lakes Region, is looking for a motivated individual that wants to learn the trade of installing hearth products. You must be comfortable working on roofs when necessary and able to work with an installer to move heavy items. Energysavers pays for all educational costs to get and maintain NFI wood, gas and pellet certifications as well as a NH gas fitters license for gas hearth installations and service. Starting pay, \$18-\$20 hour based on experience.
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Ashland School District
103 Main Street, Suite 2
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or e-mail to: karen.koch@interlakes.org
EOE

W4RP brings electrifying cross-genre chamber music to The Loft at Hermit Woods



MEREDITH — Hermit Woods Winery & Eatery is pleased to welcome the internationally touring ensemble W4RP to The Loft at Hermit Woods for an evening of genre-bending chamber music that blurs the boundaries between classical, jazz, rock, and tango on Thursday, March 19.

Known for their expertly crafted and mesmerizing performances, W4RP delivers music that makes audiences stop what they're doing and listen. The ensemble combines the precision of Juilliard-trained musicians with the improvisational spirit of artists deeply rooted in jazz and rock traditions. Their performances move seamlessly from classical

masterpieces to original compositions that bring unexpected energy and rhythm to the chamber music experience.

"Every chamber music program needs this kind of energy," wrote the Cape Cod Times. "While the beginning and ending compositions by Haydn and Brahms provided expected pleasures, it was the W4RP's own jazz / tango / classical works that gave the concert a kick in the

pants."

The ensemble features Mikael Darmanic (piano), Josh Henderson (violin), J.Y. Lee (cello), and Rick Martinez (percussion). Together, they create a powerful and dynamic musical experience that has taken them to prestigious concert halls around the world as well as standing-room-only shows in contemporary music venues. In addition to their performances, the group is widely respected for its innovative educational workshops with students from grade school through university level.

The performance will take place in The Loft at Hermit Woods, the winery's intimate listening room designed for audiences who appreciate music in a quiet, attentive setting.

Guests are invited to arrive early and enjoy the full Hermit Woods experience before the show begins. A complimentary wine tasting will be offered from 5:30-6 p.m., followed by dinner service

beginning at 6 p.m. The kitchen will close at 7 p.m., when the performance begins. Drinks and dessert will be served during the show.

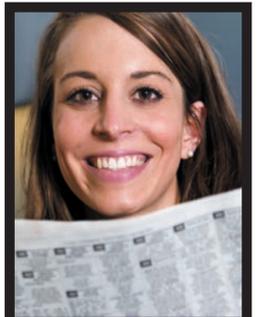
Hermit Woods' listening room concerts are designed to provide an up-close and immersive musical experience. Guests are asked to refrain from talking during the performance so both the artists and audience can fully enjoy the music in an attentive environment rarely found in larger venues.

Following the performance, guests will have the opportunity to meet the artists and purchase music or merchandise.

For more information and tickets, visit hermitwoods.com/music.

About Hermit Woods Winery & Eatery Located in downtown Meredith, New Hampshire, Hermit Woods Winery & Eatery produces award-winning wines

crafted from local fruits, berries, and honey. The winery's Loft Listening Room hosts an ongoing series of intimate concerts featuring talented artists from New England and beyond.



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The position also requires working with the hardware department when necessary. The successful candidate must enjoy working with people and have excellent customer service skills. Computer skills are helpful and prior experience in paint or retail is beneficial. Some weekend hours are required.

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